

## IN THE CLAIMS

1           1. A lock assembly for securing firearms against unauthorized access  
comprising:

an elongated flexible cable having a free end adapted to be  
inserted into a barrel or chamber of a firearm and a second end which  
5           is not insertable through the barrel or chamber, the free end defining  
an annular groove;

a lock housing formed of an inner substantially rigid non-steel  
body encapsulated within a saw resistant shell, the shell being formed  
of hardened steel having a Rockwell hardness of about 30 or greater,  
10           the housing having a top and bottom wall and forming a cable  
receiving bore extending into the housing from the top wall along a  
longitudinal axis, a key lock cylinder cavity oriented parallel to the  
longitudinal axis and having a key access opening in the bottom wall;

a key lock cylinder mounted in the cavity and having a  
15           rotatable plug for receiving and turning through a predetermined  
angle from a first position to an unlocked position with a key; and

a locking member coupled to the cylinder plug and arranged  
for insertion into the cable free end annular groove to lock the free  
end into the housing, the cable free end being free to be removed  
20           from the housing in response to the rotation of the plug to the  
unlocked position.

- 1           2. The lock assembly of claim 1 wherein the shell comprises two cup-shaped  
sections, each section having a peripheral edge, the edges being secured together.
- 1           3. The lock assembly of claim 1 wherein the locking member is biased into  
the cable free end receiving bore and into the annular groove in the cable free end  
when inserted a predetermined distance into the bore.
- 1           4. The lock assembly of claim 1 wherein the first position of the rotatable  
plug is the locked position with the locking member inserted into the cable free end  
groove when the plug is in the locked position.
- 1           5. The lock assembly of claim 1 wherein the shell has a Rockwell C hardness  
of about 50 or greater.
- 1           6. The lock assembly of claim 1 wherein the shell has a thickness within the  
range of .020 to .100 inches .
- 1           7. The lock assembly of claim 1 wherein the plastic body is formed of ABS  
plus a fiber filler.
- 1           8. The lock assembly of claim 1 wherein the annular groove is defined by  
upper and lower cylindrical sections of substantially one diameter separated by an  
intermediate section of a reduced cross-sectional dimension so that the locking  
member extends into the intermediate section to secure the cable free end in the  
5 housing and locked position.
- 1           9. The lock assembly of claim 8 wherein the locking member is arranged to  
move laterally at a substantially right angle to the longitudinal axis.

1           10. The lock assembly of claim 9 wherein the lock cylinder is arranged so  
that the key is removable only when the plug is turned to the locked position.

1           11. The lock assembly of claim 10 wherein the lower section of the cable free  
end interferes with the movement of the locking member into the cable receiving bore  
when the cable free end is inserted into the bore a distance less than the predetermined  
distance to prevent removal of the key.

1           12. The lock assembly of claim 9 wherein the second end of the cable is  
secured to the lock housing.

1           13. In a padlock housing for releasably securing a free end of a shackle, the  
shackle having an indent on the free end thereof, the housing comprising:

                  an inner substantially rigid body encapsulated within a saw  
resistant metal shell, the shell being formed of hardened steel having  
5           a Rockwell C hardness of about 30 or greater and the body being  
formed of a material having a hardness value less than that of  
hardened steel shell, the body and shell having a top and bottom  
wall, the body and shell forming a shackle free end receiving bore  
extending into the housing from the top wall along a longitudinal axis  
10          and a key lock cylinder cavity oriented parallel to the longitudinal  
axis and having a key access opening in the bottom wall;

                  a key lock cylinder mounted in the cavity and having a  
rotatable plug for receiving and turning through a predetermined  
angle from a first position to a second unlocked position with a key;

15                    and

                    a locking member coupled to the cylinder plug for insertion  
into the shackle indent to lock the shackle free end into the housing,  
the shackle free end being free to be removed from the housing in  
response to the rotation of the plug to the unlocked position.

1                    14. The lock assembly padlock housing of claim 13 wherein the shell  
comprises two cup-shaped sections, each section having a peripheral edge, the edges  
being secured together.

1                    15. The padlock housing of claim 13 wherein the shackle includes a second  
end and the housing forms a second bore aligned parallel to the longitudinal axis for  
receiving the second end of the shackle.

1                    16. The padlock housing of claim 15 wherein the peripheral edge of the two  
cup-shaped shell sections are welded together.